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”

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Communicator

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Bobbie Beth's Tidbits...

Interpreter licensure has caused many interpreters who may not have gotten certification otherwise to take the test and enter the ranks of certified interpreters. Others are on the path to getting their certification. Congratulations to all of you!

It was fortuitous for licensure to be established in Kentucky requiring interpreters to get their certification. At the 2003 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf conference in Chicago, a motion was passed to require hearing persons who wish to take the RID evaluation by 2008, to have an Associate Degree; 2012 for deaf persons. It further requires hearing persons who wish to take the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf evaluation by 2012, to have a Bachelor's Degree; 2016 for deaf persons. Those who become RID certified between now and 2008, will not be required to hold a degree of any kind. So licensure pushed Kentucky interpreters to get their certification, preventing them from the having to meet the degree requirement.

It is believed that a person with a college education is better rounded and would potentially make a better interpreter. Luckily, for those who receive their certification prior to

2008, a degree is an option. Kentucky is fortunate to have a Bachelor's degree interpreter training program available in Richmond and in Louisville. Kentucky is better equipped to meet the requirements than some other states, although the motion does not specify the degree must be in interpreter training. However, a logical impact will be larger enrollment in interpreter training programs nationwide and the subsequent need for more instructional staff.

If you are one that is working toward certification, this should provide even more motivation to do whatever it takes. I am reminded of a quote by a French poet-philosopher Guillaume Apollinaire.

*“Come to the edge.”
“We can't. We are afraid.”*

*“Come to the edge.”
“We can't. We will fall!”*

*“Come to the edge!!”
and they came.*

*And he pushed them
And they flew.*

Bobbie Beth

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The deadline to submit information and articles for the December 2003 edition of the Communicator is November 2003. All materials provided through KCDHH are available in accessible format upon request.

Resources for Interpreters Who Still Need Full Licensure

During the recent Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Conference in Chicago, Ms. Lewis from Kentucky, spoke during a plenary session regarding the history of the interpreting field and of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She said that during the early days of the interpreting profession, there was a school of thought that she termed, "the better than nothing school." There were no standards at that time. Ms. Lewis said, "Now with the establish of interpreter training programs offering associate degrees and bachelor degrees, the 'better than nothing school' doors can close forever. In addition to these programs, state chapters of RID sponsor workshops where CEU's can be earned for certification maintenance. Performance and written test sites can be found all over the country ranging from the east coast to the west coast."

Kentucky itself has a host of workshops, videotapes, books, etc. available for interpreters to utilize to prepare themselves for certification, temporary and full licensure.

There are many websites with a wealth of information for educational interpreters and other interpreters as well. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf website, www.kyrid.org, has a searchable database of workshops all over the nation. The database may be searched by city, date, presenter, topic, etc.

The ECU website, www.interpreting.ecu.edu, has interpreter workshops being provided in Kentucky, and an outreach library with numerous videotapes and books on interpreting, sign language, deaf culture, etc.

KCDHH has the Deaf Resource Library with dozens of videos, books, and other resources on these topics as well.

Other resources that may be utilized are events/opportunities to socialize with deaf and hard of hearing individuals to improve receptive and expressive skills. Some of these opportunities are:

- Fayette Mall on the first and third Friday of the month at the food court
- Rotating Louisville malls at the food court
- Fern Creek Deaf Club (weekly activities)
- Louisville Association of the Deaf (weekly activities)
- Deaf/interpreted church socials
- Deaf sporting events
- Deaf board meetings

One of the ways that educational and other interpreters can help themselves develop the nerve to take the RID evaluation is to get involved in interpreter organizations such as KYRID and RID, and to attend national and regional conferences, particularly RID and RID Region III conferences. Interpreters at these conferences are a lot more welcoming of newcomers than one might imagine. Once an interpreter feels a part of a group of professional interpreters, he/she may feel less afraid of the RID evaluation and come to appreciate the need for such a test.

In addition, deaf conferences are a wonderful way to learn about hot issues within the deaf community, including interpreter issues, and are a perfect opportunity to hone skills, observe non-manual markers, use of loan signs, and a host of other things.

KCDHH has been working diligently to assist interpreters who still need a mentor, to find one and meet the requirements for temporary licensure. KCDHH will continue to link mentors with those needing mentors. KCDHH is here to help. Call on us!

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Chairperson's Article

It is truly an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to serve as Chairperson of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I have been involved with KCDHH since 2000 when I was appointed Member-at-Large. I was re-appointed for a second term in July of 2003 and was subsequently elected Chairperson. I have truly enjoyed meeting and working with the Commissioners and staff of KCDHH.

My interest in advocating for the deaf and hard of hearing stems from my experience with my children. My husband Ken and I live in Harrodsburg, Kentucky with our three children – Kenneth, age 9, Mary, age 8 and Edward, age 7. Kenneth was diagnosed with a mild-moderate hearing loss and began wearing hearing aids when he was three years old. His loss ultimately proved to be progressive in nature and by the time he was 7 years old, he was profoundly deaf. Edward was diagnosed with a similar loss at the age of 2 ½ that also proved to be progressive. Both boys now hear with the help of cochlear implants.

As we began navigating the maze of early intervention and special education services, my husband and I quickly learned that we needed to become effective advocates if our children were to receive the services they needed. But how? What does being an advocate really mean? Where do you start?

Faced with these questions I began my research. The Internet, with its vast array of resources, quickly became my best friend. As I contemplated the idea of advocacy, I came across a wonderful web site that has proved tremendously useful to me in my efforts. The “Success by 6 Advocacy Toolkit” accessed at <http://successby6-fl.org/toolkit.html>, provided me with valuable information on how to become an effective advocate. According to Success by 6, the only qualifications needed to become an effective advocate are concern, compassion, commitment and action. If these were the only qualifications then I could definitely become one!

As I read and learned more about advocating for my children, I put my newly found skills to work trying to secure health insurance coverage for my son Edward's hearing aids. Being faced with the need for a 5th set of hearing aids in three years, I challenged our health insurance company's denial of coverage and was ultimately successful in getting them to pay for Edward's aids. Much was learned as I navigated the appeals process and I realized that other parents might benefit from my experience. This prompted me to write an article entitled “Advocating for Your Child: One Parent's Approach to Securing Health Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids” in hopes of helping other parents secure coverage for their

children's hearing aids. The article was published in the September/October 2001 issue of Volta Voices and can be accessed at <http://www.agbell.org/news/advocfyc.cfm>.

The fruits of my second major advocacy effort came in 2002, when with the help of my fellow commissioners and KCDHH staff, we were successful in securing passage of SB 152 which requires health insurance companies to provide coverage for hearing aids for children. The Internet again proved to be a valuable resource as I tried to understand the legislative process and how to effectively advocate for passage of SB 152.

Understanding the legislative process and how to effectively communicate with your legislators is key in the advocacy process. KCDHH knows this and has planned a workshop on November 14, 2003 in conjunction with the Region 2 NAD conference, where Senator Tom Buford and Senator Dan Kelly will provide helpful information on how to effectively communicate with your legislators.

Armed with knowledge and information, all of us can become effective advocates. Remember you have the qualifications – concern, compassion, commitment and action-too!

I look forward to serving as your chairperson and invite you to contact me with your questions and concerns at trfree1@aol.com.

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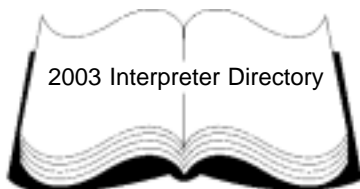
An agency of the Kentucky Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet

Announcements...



Don't forget Deaf
Awareness Week is
September 21-27.

The 2003 updated versions of the Interpreter Directory and the Directory of Services for Individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing are available now. Please call to request your free copy!



Be a Mentor

Did you know that you can earn CEU's by being a mentor?? You sure can! Earn up to 2 CEU's per cycle by doing an independent study plan.

For more information you can contact Tammy Cantrell at tscant01@louisville.edu or (502) 852-2184.

Interpreter Code of Ethics Revision

Due to the recent changes in the RID and the NAD, a revision to the Interpreter Code of Ethics has been proposed. The proposed National Council on Interpreting (NCI) Interpreter Code of Ethics was released at the 2003 RID National Conference. At this point, the revision is a working draft and is open to feedback. Voting on the new revised ethics will take place sometime next year after the NAD conference in July. You can view the document on DEAF C.A.N.'s website at www.deafcan.org. Please take the time to submit your feedback.